

REFERENCES AND REVIEWS

SYSTEMIC MANIFESTATIONS DUE TO ALLERGY—W. G. Crook, W. W. Harrison, S. E. Crawford, and B. S. Emerson. *Pediatrics*—Vol. 27:790 (May) 1961.

Allergy was found to cause systemic signs and symptoms in 50 children. Fatigue, pallor, infraorbital circles, nasal congestion, and mental and nervous symptoms were seen in most. Headache, abdominal pain, muscular aching, and a variety of other symptoms occurred in some. Incriminated allergens included foods (especially milk and chocolate) and inhalants. Although two-thirds of the patients had other allergies, such as asthma and hay fever, the systemic manifestations occurred independently and were due usually to different allergens. The criteria for diagnosis included: (1) relief of symptoms when the probable cause was eliminated, (2) precipitation of symptoms by reintroducing the cause, and (3) positive skin tests (inhalants). These cases, and those reported in the literature, suggest that systemic manifestations due to allergy are common, that they can be readily recognized, and that often they can be dramatically relieved by the elimination of a food from the child's diet.

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METHOD FOR STUDY OF ARTERIAL PROFILE—O. J. Pollak and P. S. Morrow. *Arch. Path.*—Vol. 71:576 (May) 1961.

A method was devised to study the profile of coronary arteries, and to evaluate the location and degree of stenosis. Plaster imprints of longitudinally opened arteries were prepared, the casts were segmented with a saw, contours of the segments were traced, the tracings were enlarged with

a pantograph, and the width and height of excursions were measured. The technique does not interfere with chemical or histological studies of the arteries. Application of this method in comparative studies of arteries from persons of varying age, different sex or ethnic origin, and of arteries of subjects who had died of various diseases may help to advance our knowledge of atherosclerosis.

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EFFECT OF PARATHYROIDECTOMY ON INCIDENCE OF RENAL CALCULI—M. G. McGeown. *Lancet*—Vol. 1:586 (March 18) 1961.

There were 68 cases of hyperparathyroidism amongst 405 patients (16.9 per cent) suffering from calcareous renal stones. Fifty-six patients were followed for periods of one to five years, and the effect of parathyroidectomy on stone recurrence was studied. In the postparathyroidectomy period 99 stones occurred in 401 patient-years, but there were only 8 in 158 postparathyroidectomy patient-years ($P < 0.001$). When each patient was treated as his own control, there was a significant difference between the observed and the expected figures ($P < 0.001$) for the five postparathyroidectomy years. The decrease in the incidence of stone recurrence justifies the search for hyperparathyroidism in all patients with calcareous calculi.

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DIETARY LIPIDS, THROMBOSIS, AND CLOT-LYSIS—R. F. Scott, K. Alousi, and W. A. Thomas. *Arch. Path.*—Vol. 71:594 (May) 1961.

We have previously demonstrated in rats that diets containing large quantities of common fatty substances, such as butter (plus cholesterol, propylthiouracil and bile salts), will produce thromboses and infarcts, particularly in the

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REFERENCES AND REVIEWS

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heart and kidneys, and will result eventually in a form of atherosclerosis. We have also shown previously, and confirmed in the present study in a larger series, that such diets will prolong the clot-lysis times as compared with rats on normal diets. In addition, it is demonstrated that the freezing and storing of plasma samples in liquid nitrogen at -195.8°C . (-320.0°F .) does not alter this diet-induced prolongation of clot-lysis times. It is suggested that storage of plasma in liquid nitrogen for future analysis is a practical means of preserving specimens collected at different times and from widely separated geographic areas.

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SODIUM METHICILLIN IN ROUTINE THERAPY—R. W. Fairbrother and G. Taylor. *Lancet*—Vol. 1:473 (March 4) 1961.

Sodium methicillin is effective against both penicillin-sensitive and resistant strains of *Staphylococcus aureus* and has marked bactericidal activity. Weight for weight, it is about 100 times less active than penicillin G against sensitive strains and about eight times less active than erythromycin against most strains. Resistance to methicillin develops readily in vitro; it has to be given intramuscularly at 4- to 6-hour intervals and has a relatively low grade of activity. Its use should be reserved for unusually resistant strains of *Staphylococcus aureus*.

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ADMINISTRATION OF OXYGEN—J. A. C. Ball. *Lancet*—Vol. 1:591 (March 18) 1961.

The efficiency of oxygen administration employing an oxygen tent, a mask, and the Tudor Edwards spectacles was examined, using the level of arterial oxygen saturation as a criterion. The mask was found to be significantly better than

the tent or the Tudor Edwards spectacles; but the spectacles were found to raise arterial oxygen saturation a little higher than an oxygen tent. Reasons for preferring the Tudor Edwards spectacles as a general method of oxygen administration are given.

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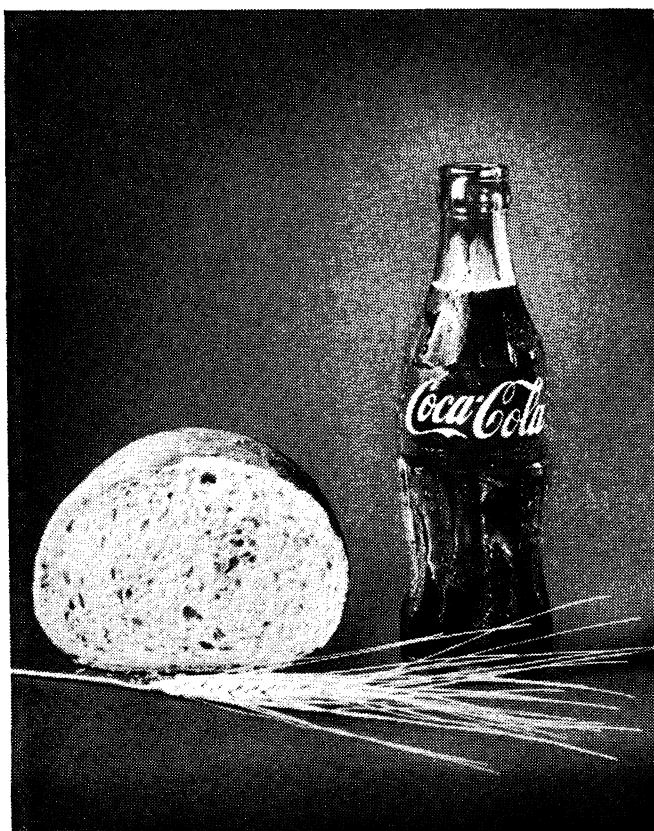
EFFECT OF FASTING ON LEVELS OF PLASMA NONESTERIFIED FATTY ACIDS IN NORMAL CHILDREN, NORMAL ADULTS, AND OBESE ADULTS—J. Corvilain, H. Loeb, A. Champenois, and M. Abramow. *Lancet*—Vol. 1:534 (March 11) 1961.

The plasma level of nonesterified fatty acids (NEFA) was found to be higher in children than in adults after an overnight fast of 14 hours. Prolonging the fast for five hours led to an increase in the NEFA level in both groups; this increase was significantly greater in children than in adults. The finding that children respond to fasting with a marked rise in plasma NEFA might be due to high growth-hormone activity. Obese adults have a higher plasma NEFA level than normal adults after overnight fasting. Prolonging the fast for five hours was not followed by any significant rise in plasma NEFA levels. These data emphasize the abnormal metabolism of fatty acids in overweight adults.

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POSTURAL HYPOTENSION AS THE PRESENTING SIGN IN CRANIOPHARYNGIOMA—J. E. Thomas, A. Schirger, J. G. Love, and D. L. Hoffman. *Neurology*—Vol. 11:418 (May) 1961.

A case of craniopharyngioma is described in whom the presenting symptom, for over a year, was postural hypotension. Subsequent development of stress headache, diabetes insipidus and visual field defects established the diagnosis. The differential features of the case are discussed. Search for a space-occupying intracranial lesion should be a part of an investigation in every patient with postural hypotension.



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